

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

“Are We There Yet?”

Type
Activity

Related
Houston Ship
Channel Module

Teacher's/Parents' Guide

Houston boasts one of the largest and busiest ports in the U.S. Use this activity to help students become familiarized with the Ship Channel, and to start thinking about Houston and its surrounding areas as a maritime region.

Check out our **Houston Ship Channel Module** for a full set of resources.

How to Use

Step 1. Print a copy of the map provided for each student. Or, you can complete one as a group.

Step 2. Follow the prompts in the activity sheet.

Step 3. Go over the **Talking Points!** together to get students start thinking about Houston as a maritime city.

Suggestions for Teachers/Parents with Younger Students

- You may want to mark the maps beforehand with several reference points that students are familiar with.
- Use this as an opportunity to learn how to read maps. What do the lines mean? What do the symbols mean? Which way is north?
- Use concepts such as “close”, “far”, “closer”, “farther” to help students think about where the Houston Ship Channel is in relation to their environment.

Talking Points!

Are you surprised how close or far the Ship Channel is to where you live?

Have you ever been to the Ship Channel? Maybe you drove by it on your way to Galveston!

What You Need

10 ~ 20 mins.

Pens, markers,
crayons, or
colored pencils

“Are We There
Yet?” activity
sheet (attached)

Glossary

Turning Basin

: A wide body of
water where
cargo ships can
turn and reverse
direction.

Houston Ship Channel

Are We There Yet?

Step 1. Can you find your house and school on this map? Find and mark them on the map.

Step 2. Where are the favorite places you like to visit? Zoo? Museum? Your grandmother's house? Mark three places on the map.

Step 3. Answer the questions below.

Is the Ship Channel on the east/west/north/south of where your house is?

Which roads would you take to get to the Ship Channel? Trace your route on the map.

How far is the Houston Ship Channel from where you live? Ask an adult (or use an online map) how long it will take to get there by car.

